

A YEAR OF TRANSITION & NEW LEADERSHIP AT OUR AGENCY

by Teresa Guaglianone, Executive Director

As we move through 2026, our agency is experiencing a year defined by growth, transition, and new beginnings. On December 31, 2025, we celebrated the retirement of longtime Executive Director Bonnie Floro, whose leadership and commitment shaped the foundation we continue to build upon.

With Bonnie's retirement, the new year ushered in several exciting leadership changes. On January 1, 2026, I stepped into the role of Executive Director, honored to continue advancing the mission and work of our agency. Joining the leadership team in her new role is Tara Lansberry, formerly our Child Care Director, who is now serving as Assistant Director.

Rounding out these transitions, the Child Care Director position has been filled by Kara McGary, who has been a valuable member of our organization for several years in a variety of roles. Kara's experience, enthusiasm, and strong relationships within the agency make her an excellent fit to guide our child care and early learning programs forward.

While these changes bring new responsibilities and learning opportunities for each of us, they also bring renewed energy and a shared commitment to strengthening the services we provide. We are excited about what lies ahead and grateful for the support of our staff, partners, and community as we begin this next chapter together.



OPENING HEARTS, CHANGING LIVES: The Journey of Child Adoption

by Jennifer Teats, Adoption Program Manager



Adoption is more than a legal process, it's a profound act of love, hope, and connection. Every adoption story begins differently, but they all share one common thread: the desire to give a child a safe, nurturing, and permanent home. For children, adoption can mean the start of a new chapter filled with stability, care, and the opportunity to thrive. For adoptive parents, it's a journey of patience, resilience, and unconditional love. And for birth parents, it can be a courageous decision rooted in wanting the best possible future for their child. Adoption is not without challenges, but it is a testament to the power of human connection. EVERY child deserves to feel safe, valued, and loved.

If you have ever thought about adoption, please visit either adoptuskids.org or the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE) on the PA.gov website. There you will find the stories and faces of the children/youth waiting for permanency. Our agency has several youth featured on the PAE website

In the words of Amir, "Are you the family I am looking for?" If so, please feel free to reach out to the Adoption Program Manager, Jennifer Teats, at (814) 765-2686 x209.

Featured Youth

Mariah

America

Liam

Brenton

Kiarra

Amir

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/adopt-pa-kids/waiting-kids>

BE THE VILLAGE

by Brittany Blackburn, Foster Care Program Manager

This May, during National Foster Care Month, we invite you to join us in recognizing the vital role that each of us can play in the lives of children and families involved in foster care. Foster care is not meant to be done alone. Children in care, biological families, foster families, and child welfare professionals all need support, encouragement, and connection. That's why this year, we are focusing on one powerful message: #BeTheVillage.

Being the village means showing up in meaningful ways—big or small. Not everyone is called to become a foster parent, but everyone can do something. You can:

- Support a foster family with meals childcare, or words of encouragement
- Donate essentials like diapers, clothing, school supplies, or gift cards
- Provide birthday bags or holiday gifts
- Spread the word

Whether you open your home, offer your time, donate resources, or simply stand beside those doing the work, your role matters. This May, let's #bethevillage.



#BETHEVILLAGE

QUICK FACTS:

- Nearly 15,000 children are in foster care in Pennsylvania
- 45% of children are reunified with their biological family, making foster care only temporary
- Around 1 in 10 foster children are adopted
- There is a foster family shortage in PA with a greater need for those accepting teens and sibling groups



YOUTH MENTORING'S 23RD ANNUAL SHOOT FOR THE MAGIC EVENT

Shoot for the Magic is the biggest fundraiser to help support our Youth Mentoring program. There are different levels of participation and sponsorship for individuals and businesses at the event.

Participants enjoy lunch, a 100-target competition, games, a live auction and dinner. Individuals not interested in shooting can purchase a dinner and auction ticket in order to still participate. Proceeds go directly towards serving more area children through Youth Mentoring, with a top priority of ensuring child safety.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our annual sporting clays fundraiser

“Shoot For The Magic”
is set for
June 5
at Warrior's Mark
Wingshooting Lodge
& Kennels in Houtzdale

Clearfield County youth, their families and mentors receive professional agency support to ensure safety and satisfaction in their match relationship. Through fundraising, mentor recruitment is increased to secure mentors for the children who are waiting to be paired. Supporting this preventative program is cost-effective and yields significant positive impacts on children served.



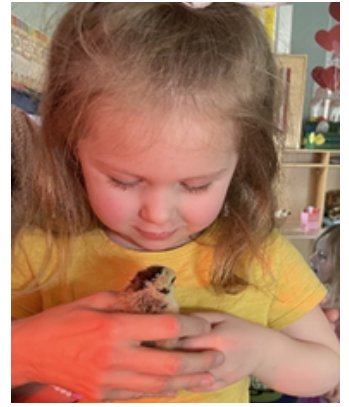
To register a team, learn about being a sponsor, or to volunteer, please contact us online or call (814) 765-2686 x232.

PRE-K COUNTS COUNTS DOWN TO HATCH DAY

by Kara McGary, PKC Program Manager/Child Care Director

Here in our Child Care Center at Children's Aid, nothing kicks off Spring like Miss Tonya's "bird study" in our Pre-K Counts Program. When talking about the bird study with Miss Tonya, she said what they love more than birds are eggs. That is when the "Countdown to Hatch Day" began.

Through collaboration with a local farmers market, Miss Tonya was able to incubate chicken eggs in her Pre-K classroom for the past three years. The class officially started their 21-day countdown to hatch day while they are learning all about how life can begin inside of an egg. The class will make predictions about the hatchlings and learn how to care for the new chicks as they hatch. The excitement and smiles that fill our center during this study is like magic and brings so much joy to every classroom. This unit helps the boys and girls have a hands-on learning experience, explore and ask questions, recognize how animals change and grow, and identify local businesses meeting many PA Early Learning Standards.



To learn more about our Pre-K Counts program, please visit our website or call us at 814-765-2685 x218.



GETTING OUTDOORS & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

by Alora Royer, FSS Program Manager

As Spring and Summer come into full swing, parents may be looking for activities to do with their children. You don't have to spend lots of money to keep kids entertained, sometimes all you need to do is go outside! Our Family Support Services program is working with families to encourage them to engage in more outdoor time, especially as the warmer weather approaches. Spending time outside with your child, no matter their age, supports their development in many ways! Their cognitive development is supported by being able to tune in with the sounds, colors, different temperatures, and textures that are outside. Touching leaves, grass, dirt or even gravel can help a child verbalize their experience and stimulate their language development. Going outside can encourage children to play with or alongside others, encouraging their social skills. Being outside gives children a larger space to be able to practice their motor skills. This can be by running, walking, climbing, learning how to ride a bike, or even playing with chalk!

Need a fun outdoor activity to do with your kids? We suggest painting with shaving cream!

What you'll need:

-bowls or muffin tin - shaving cream - food dye - paint brushes

Divide the shaving cream into bowls or a muffin tin.

Add whatever food dye color your child wants to create shaving cream paint!

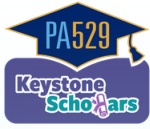
Provide paint brushes or even let them use their fingers. The outdoors is their canvas.

They can paint on a sidewalk, a sliding glass door, trees, and maybe even some rocks!

This cheap and easy activity allows children to use their creativity and supports their development. And remember to slow down, watch the joy unfold, and take a few pictures to look back at this memory.



If you are interested in enrolling in Nurturing, Triple P, or Parents as Teachers please call Alora Royer at 814-762-2686 ext. 250.



KEYSTONE SCHOLARS jumpstarts educational savings by providing a \$100 scholarship account for every child born to a PA family on or after January 1, 2019. Keystone Scholars sets the expectation at birth for every child in Pennsylvania to pursue some form of post-high school education, including community college, technical training, and apprenticeships, and it encourages families to start saving on their own early in the child's life. Parents can claim their child's account at pa529.com/keystone. Only three pieces of information are needed:

- o Child's date of birth.
- o State File Number from child's PA birth certificate.
- o Zip code used to file for child's birth certificate.

Once claimed, parents may open a companion PA 529 account to start their own savings! Link the PA 529 and Keystone Scholars accounts together to watch the savings grow! To learn more, visit pa529.com/keystone or call 800-440-4000.



www.childaid.org



@childaidcflid



AGENCY YARD SALE

Each year, Children's Aid Society holds a yard sale in order to raise additional funds for our agency.

This is also a good way for us to connect and interact with our community outside of the programs and direct services we offer.

This year, our annual yard sale will be held on August 13, with a rain date of August 14, 2026.

If you would like to volunteer to help us sort before the sale or to help set up the day of the event, please contact us at (814) 765-2686 x201.

Please note: we no longer accept public donations

Mark your calendars and don't forget to stop by and meet our wonderful staff and peruse the items up for sale.

While you're here, don't forget to ask about our programs!



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U.S. Postage PAID
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Permit No. 12